

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arai et al. (U.S. 5,755,672).

Drawings

Applicant proposes to amend Figure 1, as illustrated in red on the attached photocopy. In Figure 1 it is proposed to add the label --PRIOR ART--. No "new matter" has been added to the original disclosure by the proposed amendments to this figure. Approval of the proposed drawing change is respectfully requested.

Abstract of the Disclosure

Applicant is submitting a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure for that originally filed with this application to more clearly describe the claimed invention. Entry of the substitute Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

Amendments to Specification

Applicant has amended the specification as noted above to cure obvious grammatical and idiomatic inaccuracies. It is believed that the foregoing amendments to the specification overcome the outstanding objections thereto. No "new matter" has been added to the original disclosure by the foregoing amendments to the specification.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-3 and has added new claims 4-6 to this application. It is believed that the new claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and define subject matter that is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art.

The new claims are directed toward an apparatus for testing moisture in skin comprising: a casing (10) having: a micro alternate current generator; an alternate current resistance measuring circuit (32); a memory (34) storing a predetermined

value; display device (36); a power supply (13); and a CPU single-chip microprocessor (33) connected to the micro alternate current generator, the alternate current resistance measuring circuit, the memory, power supply, and the display device; a fixed base (12) located at a front end of the casing and having a plurality of through holes (121); a plurality of conductive electrodes (20), one of the plurality of conductive electrodes is inserted into each of the plurality of through holes of the fixed base from an interior of the casing and protruding from the casing, each of the plurality of conductive electrodes being movable between compressed and extended positions and having a flange (22) limiting a length of outward movement in the extended position, the plurality of conductive electrodes being connected in parallel to a correction resistor; and a plurality of elastic members (21), one of the plurality of elastic members having a first end pressing outwardly against an interior of each of the plurality of conductive electrodes and a second end connected to the micro alternate current generator and the alternate current resistance measuring circuit, wherein, when the electrodes engage the skin, the plurality of elastic members providing a constant pressure between the skin and the plurality of conductive electrodes, the CPU single-chip microprocessor receiving a measured result from the electrode and comparing the measured result with the predetermined value stored in memory and obtaining a compared result, and the display device displaying the compared result.

Other embodiments of the present invention include: each of the plurality of elastic members is an electrically conductive spring; and the display device is a liquid crystal display screen.

The cited reference to Arai et al. teaches measuring equipment having a measurement probe (4) located on an exterior, a switching sleeve located in the probe, a first spring (14) located between the switching sleeve and a switch (12), and a second spring located between the switching sleeve and a water content sensor (3). A oil content sample cap (5) is removable connected to the water content sensor.

Arai et al. do not teach a fixed base located at a front end of the casing and having a plurality of through holes; one of the plurality of conductive electrodes is inserted into each of the plurality of through holes of the fixed base from an interior

of the casing and protruding from the casing; each of the plurality of conductive electrodes being movable between compressed and extended positions and having a flange limiting a length of outward movement in the extended position; one of the plurality of elastic members having a first end pressing outwardly against an interior of each of the plurality of conductive electrodes and a second end connected to the micro alternate current generator and the alternate current resistance measuring circuit; nor do Arai et al. teach, when the electrodes engage the skin, the plurality of elastic members providing a constant pressure between the skin and the plurality of conductive electrodes.

It is axiomatic in U.S. patent law that, in order for a reference to anticipate a claimed structure, it must clearly disclose each and every feature of the claimed structure. Applicant submits that it is abundantly clear, as discussed above, that Arai et al. do not disclose each and every feature of Applicant's new claims and, therefore, could not possibly anticipate these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Absent a specific showing of these features, Arai et al. cannot be said to anticipate any of Applicant's new claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is further submitted that Arai et al. do not disclose, or suggest any modification of the specifically disclosed structures that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicant's claimed structure. Thus, it is not believed that Arai et al. render obvious any of Applicant's new claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 1 as illustrated in red on the attached photocopy.